

## 1.0 Introduction

The City of Carlsbad Pedestrian Master Plan guides the future development and enhancement of pedestrian facilities within the city, and intends to make walking an integral mode of transportation in Carlsbad. This plan was developed with extensive input from the community and seeks to meet Carlsbad's needs and desires for pleasant, enjoyable and safe places to walk.

What will Carlsbad be like for pedestrians in the future? This Master Plan offers a vision of a future Carlsbad where:

- People can conveniently walk to their destinations.
- People feel safe walking.
- Facilities are provided for people from all age groups.
- People with disabilities are more easily mobile.
- Visitors are attracted to the enhanced walking environment.
- Commercial streets are exciting places to visit.

The goals, policies and strategies outlined in this Plan can turn this vision into a reality. It includes phased recommendations that will encourage people to walk more for short trips, enhance the environment for people with disabilities and children walking to school, and lead overall to an increase in the number of pedestrian trips. It focuses on enhancing pedestrian safety in crosswalks and along streets, and provides a blueprint for improving residents' quality of life, creating a more sustainable environment, and reducing traffic, noise and energy consumption.

Carlsbad City leaders, staff and residents are committed to ensuring that future growth results in a city with a truly multi-modal transportation network, where pedestrian facilities are fully integrated and residents can walk comfortably and pleasurably between a variety of destinations. This pedestrian plan builds on Carlsbad's past planning efforts to enhance the pedestrian environment in future development. Providing these walking opportunities will decrease residents' dependence on vehicles, and will help to preserve and promote Carlsbad as a place where people want to live, work, and visit.

## 1.1 Setting

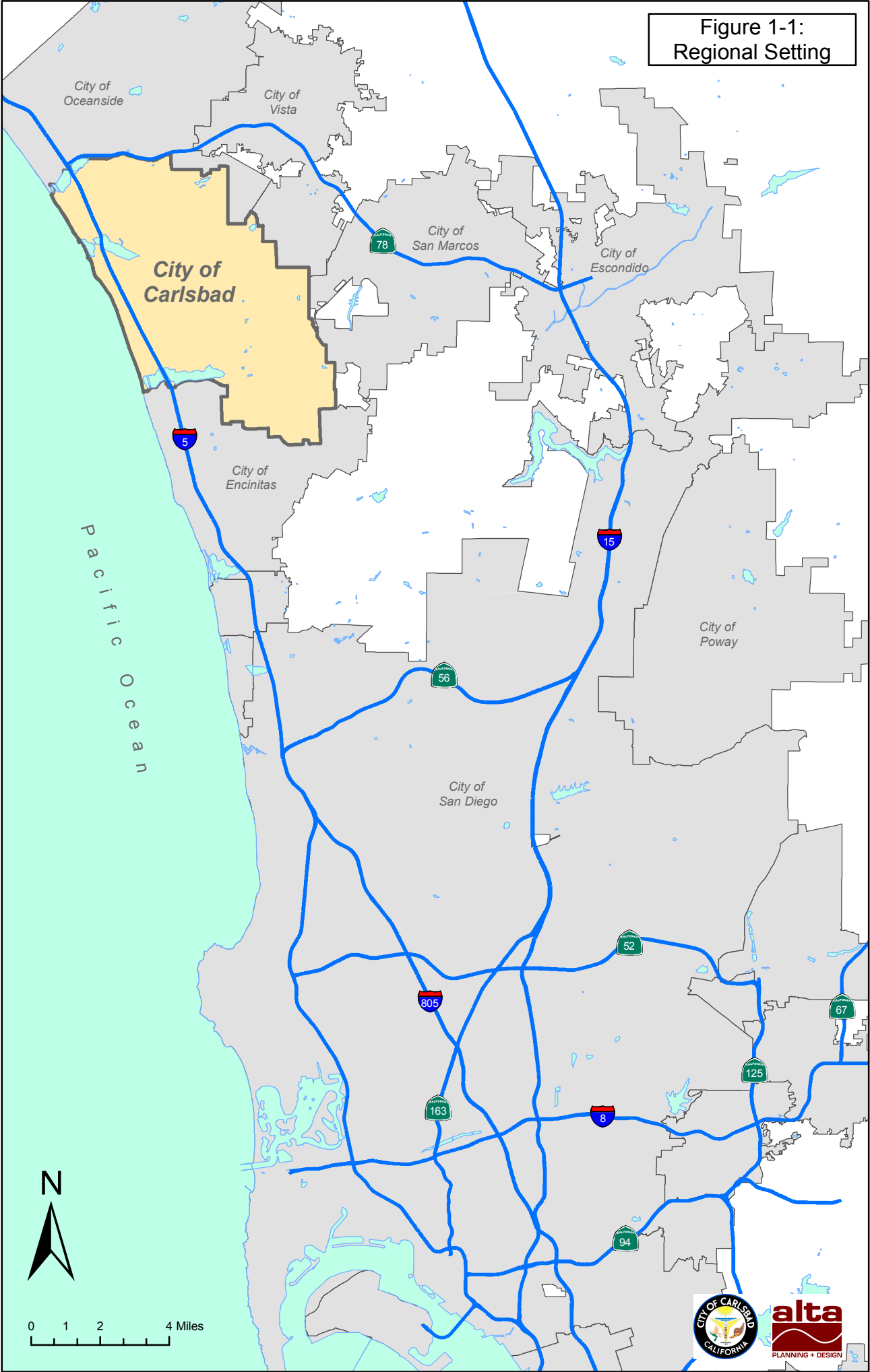
The City of Carlsbad is situated in the northwest corner of San Diego County along the Pacific Ocean. It encompasses approximately forty square miles of land, and is bordered on the north by the City of Oceanside, on the northeast by the City of Vista and the unincorporated County of San Diego, on the east by the City of San Marcos, and on the south by the City of Encinitas. With a current population of about 104,000, it is the fifth most populated city in the San Diego region. The topography of Carlsbad varies, with three significant lagoons traversing the city east to west (Buena Vista Lagoon, Agua Hedionda Lagoon, and Batiquitos Lagoon). **Figure 1-1** displays the City of Carlsbad within the San Diego region.



One of the most vibrant areas of pedestrian activity in the City of Carlsbad is its downtown, known as the Carlsbad Village. The “Village” has a unique development character and is noted for its attractive architecture, shopping, dining, public art and inviting pedestrian streetscape. The Village is situated in the western part of what is known as Olde Carlsbad – the boundaries of the City’s original incorporation (south of Buena Vista Lagoon, north of Cannon Road, and west of El Camino Real). Olde Carlsbad is part of the more urbanized northern half of the City, and possesses quaint residential communities to the east of the Village which integrate rustic character into an attractive urban setting.

The central portion of the City surrounding McClellan-Palomar Airport functions as a large base for office and industrial employment. Residential development is limited in this area due to the proximity of the airport and industrial uses. The remaining parts of Carlsbad, to the east and south

Figure 1-1:  
Regional Setting



are in some of the most challenging topography of the City. These areas are characterized by newly urbanized developments providing some of the most state-of-the-art public facilities including new schools, parks, and a library. There are also several regional tourist attractions in this area including Legoland, California, the Flower Fields, the Four Seasons Resort, and the La Costa Resort and Spa.

## **1.2 Plan Contents**

The Carlsbad Pedestrian Plan is organized according to the following chapters:

- **Chapter 2: Benefits of Walking**

This chapter discusses the benefits of walking for the environment, for individuals, and for the overall Carlsbad's community. It also includes a summary of Carlsbad's existing walking statistics.

- **Chapter 3: Goals, Objectives and Policies**

This chapter presents the vision for Carlsbad's pedestrian network, based on the City's General Plan, as well as extensive public input.

- **Chapter 4: Existing Conditions**

This chapter summarizes the location and quantities of key pedestrian facilities within the City of Carlsbad, including sidewalks, curb ramps, trails, and street lights. The location and quantities of missing facilities is also summarized.

- **Chapter 5: Pedestrian Needs Analysis**

This chapter presents an analysis of those factors – pedestrian attractors, generators and barriers – indicating high pedestrian need across the City of Carlsbad. The chapter concludes by calling out pedestrian planning focus areas that provide a framework for the identification of pedestrian projects.

- **Chapter 6: Recommended Projects**

This chapter presents pedestrian projects to improve pedestrian accessibility and circulation in Carlsbad. The total cost for implementing all of the recommended capital improvement projects in Chapter 6 is approximately \$23 million. Project sheets are provided for top 15 priority pedestrian project locations.

- **Chapter 7. Encouraging People to Walk**

This chapter presents non-infrastructure programs intended to educate, encourage and increase awareness of pedestrians in Carlsbad.

- **Chapter 8: Implementation and Funding**

This chapter focuses on implementation and funding for the Pedestrian Master Plan and sets out a program of projects to be implemented over the next 20 years. This chapter also outlines available regional, state and federal funding sources that can provide project funding and a brief description of program features such as minimum local match requirements or limitations on eligible projects.

### ***1.3 How Citizens Can Use This Plan***

Citizens can use this Pedestrian Master Plan to ensure that pedestrian needs and conditions are properly identified, and assist the City in keeping this Plan accurate over time as it is updated. Citizens can also identify City priorities and proposals and how and when they may impact their own neighborhoods or walking routes. Most importantly, citizens can use this Plan to identify the various tools and strategies that are available to improve conditions on their streets, and work with the City to help fund and implement these improvements.



### ***1.4 How Will the City Use This Plan***

This document will serve as a technical resource for the City to guide the implementation of goals and policies in Chapter 3. This document will help City staff with the following steps:

- Understand the constraints, opportunities and setting that will define project feasibility
- Identify appropriate programs and plans
- Identify areas where further neighborhood input is necessary
- Prioritize projects
- Identify funding sources